

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /068 W

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R 061001Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6976

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, IV

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CIVAIR IN IVORY COAST

REFERENCE ABIDJAN 1094

1. WITHBILATERAL CIVAIR DISCUSSIONS WITH IVORY COAST  
EXPECTED TO START IN WASHINGTON MARCH 15, THIS TELEGRAM  
REVIEWS MATTERS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THE US NEGOTIATING  
TEAM. THE REFTEL LISTS THE MEMBERS OF THE IVORIAN  
DELEGATION. THE MOFA CONFIRMED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE  
TODAY THAT THE IVORIAN DELEGATION WOULD CONSIST OF THE  
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FIVE PERSONS LISTED, PLUS GEORGE BALLOU, MOFA

REPRESENTATIVE, AND ACCEPTED MARCH 15 AS STARTING DATE FOR THE TALKS.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE IVORIAN SIDE EXPECTS TO LEAVE WASHINGTON WITH A SIGNED TREATY. THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL PRESTIGE AND RECOGNITION IS HERENT IN SUCH A TREATY IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN ANY TANGIBLE BENEFITS WHICH MIGHT BE CONFERRED.

3. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS VASSIRIKI SAVANE THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT WITH THE TREATY OF YAUNDE WHICH WOULD BE RAISED BY ANY GRANTING OF FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS TO AN AMERICAN CARRIER IN A BILATERAL. HE IS AWARE THAT THIS MATTER MUST BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

4. RECENTLY, THE GOIC HAS BECOME INFLEXIBLE IN CIV AIR MATTERS VIS-A-VIS PANAM PERHAPS IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR BARGAINING POSITION AT THE ALKS. PANAM APPLIED, ON FEBRUARY 2, FOR PERMISSION TO REVISE THE SCHEDULE FOR ITS FLIGHT 188 TO INCLUDE DAR ES SALAAM AS A STOP BEYOND NAIROBI. THE GOIC DENIED PERMISSION, ALTHOUGH TO GRANT IT WOULD NOT HAVE AFFECTED AIR AFRIQUE, WHICH DOES NOT SERVE EAST AFRICA. (PAN AM HAD OFFERED BLOCKED SPACE ON ITS FLIGHTS TO NAIROBI, BUT AIR AFRIQUE TURNED IT DOWN.)

5. AT A MEETING OF AIRLINES HELD IN ABIDJAN FEBRUARY 4, THERE WAS CIRCULATED A LETTER FROM BOUBACAR OUATTARA OF BANQUE INTERNATIONALE POUR L'AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE ASSESSING EACH AIRLINE 65,000 CFA TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF A NEW MERCEDES FOR THE PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE. THE AIRLINES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AIR AFRIQUE, AGAIN TURNED DOWN THE DEMAND AS THEY HAD DENIED A SIMILAR REQUEST LAST YEAR.

6. LOCAL PANAM REP REPORTED A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH AOUSSOU KOFFI, PRESIDENT OF AIR AFRIQUE, IN WHICH KOFFI ADMITTED THAT THE DISCONTINUATION OF BLOCKED SPACE ARRANGEMENTS WITH PANAM AND THE INAUGURATION OF SEPARATE FLIGHTS WAS A MISTAKE, BUT THAT THE ACTION WAS IRREVERSIBLE--  
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THE POLITICAL VALUE OF CARRYING THE LAG INTO NEW YORK OUTWEIGHED THE ISSUE OF PROFIT OR LOSS.

7. MAMADOU COULIBALY, AIR AFRIQUE'S DEPUTY COMMERCIAL MANAGER, WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE IVORY COAST DELEGATION IN THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. COULIBALY WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PREVIOUS TEAM THAT WENT TO WASHINGTON AND HE STILL COMPLAINS ANGRILY OF DISCOURTEOUS TREATMENT HE RECEIVED

AT THE HANDS OF USG OFFICIALS(CAB). WHETHER OR NOT TRUE, HIS COMPLAINT IS VOCIFEROUS AND IS REFLECTED IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS US CIVIL AIR INTERESTS HERE. HE STATED THAT HE WAS MADE TO WAIT INORDINATELY LONG, TREATED RUDELY, AND CAUSED TO SPEND LARGE SUMS OF MONEY IN CABLE AND LODGING COSTS IN THE COURSE OF RECTIFYING A SPELLING ERROR IN HIS PARTY'S CREDENTIALS.

8. BOEING AND PANAM CAN BOTH BE EXPECTED TO SUPPLY SOME HOSPITALITY TO THE IVORIAN DELEGATION IN FURTHERANCE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS.

9. FINALLY, THE DELEGATION WILL BE INTERESTED IN INVESTIGATING DURING ITS TRIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR IVORIAN PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS.

10. OUR EVALUATION OF AIR AFRIQUE-IVORIAN POSITION WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL. SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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